R4D and Innovation Platforms world café discussions sessions

Group representing Farmers

Discussions:

* The question about how farmers benefit by being member of the platforms – and it is obvious that they are the direct beneficiary and also IPs create a space like farmers field days to trigger scaling up through farmers to farmers extension by inviting the indirect beneficiaries/farmers
* The IPs also aims to target how research can be useful and have impact on the livelihoods of farmers and it does through helping research in targeting farmers needs and priorities

Group representing Extension Officer

Discussions:

* Who is playing the role of facilitation was the question raised and different countries have approached differently but in general the common approach is to build the capacity of local actors and help them to facilitate the platform meetings and other events for sustainability issue

Group representing Scientists

Discussions:

* The questions focus on the different modalities applied to set-up and implement IPs and the lessons from the differences. What big issues discussed at R4D and IP level? The team said that there is a difference in modalities just because of efforts to fit to the differences in the countries otherwise the common elements are the same – objectives and purpose.
* In Malawi the big issues discussed is that there was a big budget cut at country level and the IPs discussed and used the opportunity of working together for efficiency to respond to the budget cut

Group representing Government representatives

Discussions:

* The challenge raised by the facilitators of the platform is around high staff turn over from the government organizations and it affects creating continues learning and capacity development and the scaling up efforts to engage in the R4D processes
* The question raised about if there is a difference between the farmers under IPs and farmers without the IPs regarding technology uptake. The team response was that they have accepted the need to do research around that to have concrete evidence about this but there is a good technology uptake in areas where farmers are working with the IPs

Group representing Private sector

Discussions:

* How can a privates business man can benefit from this? The response was that being a member of the platform the private sectors will see the opportunities of investing in all the crop-livestock-NRM intervention. The platform create space for linkage between the farmers and private sectors by analyzing the gap of for example seed supply
* Agro-input dealers in Bababti R4D platform linked to the farmers through interactions
* They agreed that the “money should drive the innovation” is not well addressed and there is a need to work toward addressing issues in the pool side rather than focusing solely on the supply side

Group representing NGOs – implementers

Discussions:

* The discussion here was about how NGOs benefit from the platform works and all agreed that they are development partners and they play the main role of scaling up the best innovations next to government extension

Cross cutting and common question: was on how these platforms sustainable after the project phased out and there was a strong argument on this. The team asked back if we really want the platforms to sustain beyond the project if they met their objectives. We agreed that in areas where platfroms found useful and create interest after the project period we should let evolve by itself but in areas where we want to link with the existing institutions and initiatives then we should formally establish IPs but in the other case it should be voluntary and should contribute to and help the project achieving its goal in coordination and learning and sharing around the project works.